replace the existing 11 B-737 aircraft operated by Alliance Air by leasing of equivalent number of A-319-100 aircraft.

Indian Airlines has floated a global tender for dry lease of upto eleven A-319 aircraft fitted with IAE or CFM engines. A-319 is a narrow body, twin engine jet aircraft with seating capacity of about 122 seats (114 in economy & 8 executive class).

The lease term desired in the tender notice for aircraft is 5 years or 3 years extendable by two years. The last date for the submission of the offers is 30th July, 2004.

Investigation in helicopter crashes

699. SHRI R.K. ANAND : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious lapses of omission by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) were traced in the investigation conducted in the helicopter crashes in Jammu and Kashmir and off the Mumbai coast last year; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against DGCA to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) The report, submitted by the Inspector of Accidents, in respect of accident to Government of Jammu and Kashmir's Bell-407 helicopter VT-FJK near Ganderbal, Srinagar, on 5.8.2003 has pointed out lapses on the part of pilot and operator. The Report is under consideration of the Government. As regards accident to M/s. Mesco Airlines's MI-172 helicopter VT-MAF at Mumbai High, on 11.8.2003, the report was submitted by Inspector of Accidents on 17.5.2004 which is presently under examination of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(b) Action, if necessary, would be taken on acceptance of these reports by the Government.

CAT-3 Landing System at IGI Airport

700. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAT-3 Landing System has been made fully operational at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in takeoffs and landing during winter season; and

(c) the number of Air India flights cancelled or diverted out of Delhi during December-January, 2003 and the additional costs incurred by Air India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only those aircraft certified for Category IIIA operations and flown by flight crew qualified for Category IIIA operations can utilize the facility. Category IIIA operations can take place when the measured visibility is 200 meters and above.

(c) 13 flights were diverted out of Indira Gandhi International Air port and 5 were cancelled during December, 2003 and January, 2004. As a result, Air India incurred Rs. 1.90 crores as additional costs.

Revival of Rupsee Aerodrome in Assam

701. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive the Rupsee Aerodrome of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rupsee Airport in Assam belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and is a non-operational airport. As there is no demand for flight operation to/from Rupsee Airport, it is not viable to operationalise this airport.

Overstaffing in Indian Airlines

702. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to buy new Aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;